

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 12 and added new claims 26-28 to pursue alternative ways of claiming their invention. Applicants have canceled claims 16 and 17 and replaced them with new claims 29 and 30 due to their respective dependences from claims 18 and 20. Claims 1-7, 12-14, 18, 20-21, and 26-30 are now pending.

The current amendments are supported by Figure 8 and paragraphs [0056] and [0070]-[0073] of the application as filed. Accordingly, the amendments do not introduce new matter and should be entered.

Claims 1-5, 12-14, 24, and 26 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Hirst in view of Applicants' background and further in view of Bullock. Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Hirst in view of Applicants' background and Bullock, and further in view of Official Notice. Claims 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Hirst in view of Applicants' background and Bullock, and further in view of Ueno. Claims 21 and 23 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Hirst in view of Applicants' background and Bullock, and further in view of Applegate. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 1 and 12, as currently amended, recite a nonvolatile memory storing both a "shipment destination" to be used to control a printing operation, and a "destination code indicating a destination for production management". The cited references, taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose a nonvolatile memory storing both of these types of information.

The Examiner has compared the "destination code", as recited in claims 1 and 12 prior to the current amendment, with element 19a shown in Hirst's Figure 2. In making this comparison, the Examiner states "[w]hile Hirst does not go into detail, item 19a is *just a form of identification* and would be obvious not to affect the control of printing." (Office Action, p. 4, emphasis added.)

While Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's comparison of the claimed "destination code", with Hirst's element 19a, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 12 to more clearly indicate

the differences between the claimed destination codes and Hirst. In particular, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 12 to indicate that the claimed destination codes indicate a destination for production management. The destination for production management of a process cartridge can be, e.g., a particular type of pack such as a “standard pack” or a “value pack”, a particular sales district, or a particular type of distribution, such as recycled distribution.

Unlike the claimed distribution codes, Hirst’s element 19a does not indicate a destination for production management. Rather, as indicated by the examiner, Hirst’s element 19a is merely used for identification purposes. Because Hirst’s element 19a does not constitute a destination code as currently recited in claims 1 and 12, the rejections of claims 1 and 12 should be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 12, as currently amended, further recite storing the shipment destination and destination code at separate areas of the nonvolatile memory. Figure 8 of Applicants’ specification shows one example such a feature. The cited references, taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose storing shipment destination and destination coded as recited in amended claims 1 and 12. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 1 and 12 should be withdrawn.

The remaining claims depend from claim 1 and 12 and are therefore patentable at least based on their respective dependences.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the current rejections and allowance of all pending claims.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief, including extensions of time, and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection

with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. **204552021000**.

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Respectfully submitted,

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